Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 05687 190323Z

65
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-02 NSC-05 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 /067 W
---------- 130339
R 190300Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8556

UNCLAS TOKYO 5687

DEPT PASS TO NASA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TSPA, JA
SUBJECT: FAILURE OF "UME" SATELLITE

REF: TOKYO 2985

1. FOLLOWING IS A LIBERAL TRANSLATION OF AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN ON APRIL 15 WHICH ELABORATES ON INFO PROVIDED PREVIOUSLY.

2. "UME", JAPAN'S FIRST APPLICATIONS SATELLITE, LAUNCHED FEBRUARY 29 FROM TANEGASHIMA SPACE CENTER, CEASED RESPONDING TO COMMAND SIGNALS FROM THE GROUND STATION ON APRIL 2. EXPERTS ARE BEGINNING TO DOUBT THAT THE SATELLITE WILL RESUME FUNCTIONING. A NASDA INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE IS NOW PROBING THIS ACCIDENT AND IS SHORTLY TO SUBMIT ITS FINDINGS TO NASDA PRESIDENT SHIMA. THE EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT THE FAILURE IS PROBABLY DUE TO MALFUNCTION OF LOGIC CIRCUITS DESIGNED FOR AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT OF (BATTERY) TEMPERATURE. THE UME NICAD BATTERY IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO EXTREME TEMPERATURE VARIATIONS. THE COMPLETE SUSPENSION OF FUNCTION OF THE BATTERY, ACCORDING TO EXPERTS, SUGGESTS THAT TEMPERATURE ROSE TO NEARLY 200 DEGREES CENTIGRADE. THE SAME TYPE OF BATTERY WAS USED IN UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO'S SCIENTIFIC
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 05687 190323Z

SATELLITES WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE POWER SOURCE SUB-SYSTEM

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

OF UME IS ALSO OF THE SAME TYPE AS THAT OF KIKU, THE ENGINEERING TEST SATELLITE I, LAUNCHED BY NASDA LAST SEPTEMBER AND CURRENTLY IN FLIGHT.

3. THE PRIME CONTRACTOR FOR UME SATELLITE IS MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORPORATION (MELCO) AND THE FIRM TOOK CHARGE OF HEAT CONTROL, AN IMPORTANT POINT IN SATELLITE DESIGN. MELCO HAS A TECHNICAL SUPPORT AGREEMENT WITH TRW.

4. ACCORDING TO AN INFORMED SOURCE, TRW HAD OFFERED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL GUIDANCE, POINTING OUT THAT HEAT CONTROL TECHNOLOGY IS AN IMPORTANT AREA REQUIRING EXPERIENCE, BUT MELCO DECLINED THE OFFER ON BUDGETARY GROUNDS. SOME SUSPECT THAT MELCO HAD TO GIVE UP THE IDEA OF "PURCHASING" THE KIND OF GUIDANCE AND TECHNICAL KNOWHOW WHICH THE FIRM ACTUALLY HAD BEEN COVETING (SIC) BECAUSE THE FIRM WAS FORCED TO BEAR UNEXPECTED EXPENSES INCLUDING THOSE FOR THE STAY OF TRW ENGINEERS IN JAPAN. THERE HAD BEEN A DELAY OF FOUR YEARS IN THE LAUNCHING OF UME. THE FACT THAT THE SATELLITE, DEVELOPED AND MANUFACTURERED AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY $6 MILLION, WAS OPERABLE FOR ONLY 33 DAYS WILL INEVITABLY CAUSE RIPPLES AMONG THOSE CONCERNED WITH SPACE ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN.
HODGSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPACE PROGRAMS, ROCKETS, SATELLITES, TRACKING STATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO05687
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760147-0551
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760446/aaaabnbp.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TOKYO 2985
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: oatisao
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by oatisao>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAILURE OF "UME" SATELLITE
TAGS: TSPA, JA, NASDA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006